



CHESTER PARK

MINI-MASTER PLAN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

- Welcome
- Meeting Purpose
- Meeting Goals
- Meeting Overview

HISTORY OF PARKS PLANNING PROCESS

- The Parks and Recreation Planning process began in 2010 and was approved in early 2011
- A Trail and Bikeway Plan was completed by the end of 2011
- The Parks Fund Levy was passed in November of 2011 and funding became available on January 1, 2012
- In order to plan for the best uses of the Parks Fund, a Mini-Master Planning process was developed for individual park facilities
- Completed Plans:
 - Gary New Duluth Recreation Area
 - Morgan Park
 - Memorial
 - Washington Square
 - Brighton Beach
 - Lower Chester
 - Hartley

HIGHLIGHTS: CHESTER PARK MINI-MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

- Chester is a well-loved park for neighbors as well as many Duluthians
- Chester Park was one of the first Mini-Master Plans
- Delays in this process occurred as a result of the 2012 Flood
- Current uses include a downhill ski program, summer day camps for youth, speed skating, soccer, cross country skiing, Music in the Park, Fall Fest, picnics, walking, and use of the playground
- Requests were made to the City from citizens and user groups to make improvements and add amenities
- A Planning Process is the best way to determine appropriate improvements and additions to a Park facility
- Tonight we will be listening to your input and reviewing:
 - Input received to-date
 - Improvements proposed
 - Proposed additions
 - Phasing & Funding

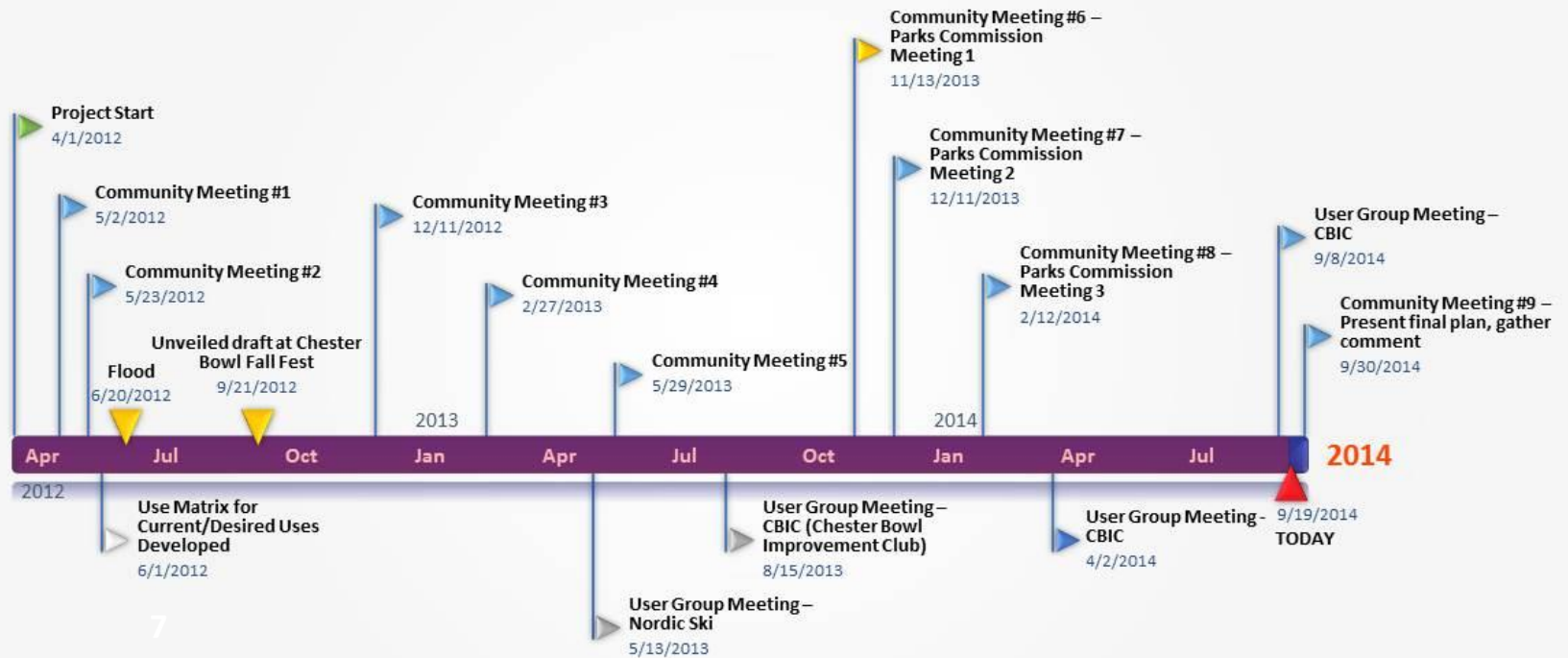
WHAT THE MINI-MASTER PLAN IS.....WHAT IT IS NOT

- A Mini-Master Plan is a guide, a blueprint for changes in our parks
- A Mini-Master Plan is a look from a high level to determine best possible uses of the Park
- It is a living document that will be updated and revised as needed
- It is not a construction-ready document for immediate implementation
- In itself, the Mini-Master Plan does not represent an authorization to do work within the Park

WHY HAVE A MINI-MASTER PLAN FOR CHESTER PARK?

- To address requests that come up periodically from citizens and user groups to add amenities or make improvements to the Park
- All elements of the current draft Plan were requests from individuals or user groups
- To address conflicts that arise from a variety of Park users
- Circumstances unique to the Park: conflict on trails, trail density and overdevelopment; focus on enhancing or expanding what already exists versus adding new
- Scale of Plan dependent on many factors; representative of Park and its users

TIMELINE FOR CHESTER PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN PROCESS



CHESTER MINI-MASTER PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This Mini-Master Plan integrates public feedback into its recommendations and works to propose enhancements that are compatible with the following guiding principles:

- Respect the Park
- Honor the History
- Keep the Character
- Conserve the Environment
- Consider all Ages and Abilities
- Upgrade Facilities
- Environmental and Historic Stewardship
- Improve Access and Connectivity
- Identify and Create Greatest Value at Acceptable Costs

PREFERRED ELEMENTS GENERATED FROM INITIAL PUBLIC INPUT











- Three creek crossings, one upstream from the chalet, one centrally located, and one downstream near the playground area.
- New downhill ski run
- Walking trails/Dog Walking perimeter trail
- Nordic skiing
- Downhill skiing
- Music in the Park
- Pond (for Canoeing, kayaking, water play etc.)
- Community building uses (use of Chalet)
- Community park uses (Fall Fest, Music in the Park, etc.)
- Mountain biking “loop trail”
- Zip-Line
- Day camps (Kitchigami and CBIC)
- A “Duluth Traverse” multi use trail
- Paths connecting the various neighborhoods surrounding the park
- The pools and riffle system create fishing pools along Chester Creek
- Playground
- An open turf area large enough for non organized active type activities, soccer, softball, speed skating, etc.
- Sports court
- Picnic shelter near the amphitheater area
- Amphitheater
- Picnic areas including grills, seating, shelter, etc.
- Addition of new building for day camps use, community use, & Nordic uses
- Bicycling – limited to the “Duluth Traverse”
- Landscaping / Shade tree plantings
- Pedestrian scale lighting – study the removal / revision of the athletic field lighting
- Clay tennis courts
- Disc golf course
- Skate park
- Off leash dog area

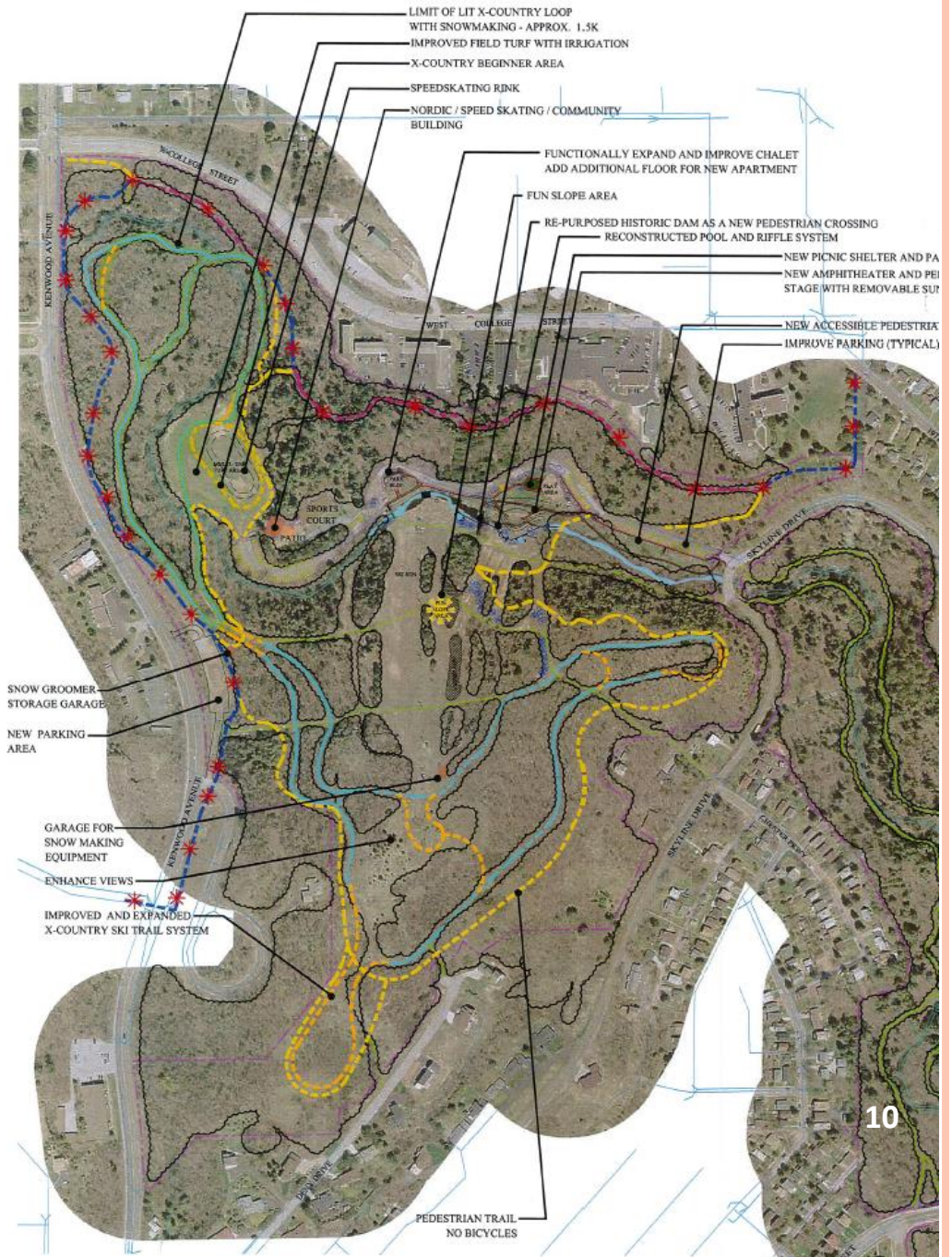
UNWANTED ELEMENTS GENERATED FROM INITIAL PUBLIC INPUT

- Motorized Vehicles
- Mountain Biking Trails – except for Duluth Traverse

CHESTER MINI-MASTER PLAN DESIGN

KEY

-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  YEAR ROUND PEDESTRIAN ONLY TRAIL (NO BIKES)
-  EXISTING X-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS
-  X-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL WITH NEW LIGHTS AND SNOWMAKING
-  PROPOSED TREE(S)
-  DULUTH TRAVERSE "SINGLE TRACK MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL" (SHARED WITH "EXISTING" TRAIL - BIKES ALLOWED)
-  DULUTH TRAVERSE "SINGLE TRACK MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL" (SHARED "NEW" TRAIL - BIKES ALLOWED)
-  NEW OR RE-ROUTED X-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
-  2'-0" CONTOUR INTERVAL
-  EXISTING PEDESTRIAN TRAIL



TRAIL & CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS

WALKING TRAILS

- Net gain of .83 miles of new trails
- Little or no tree removal

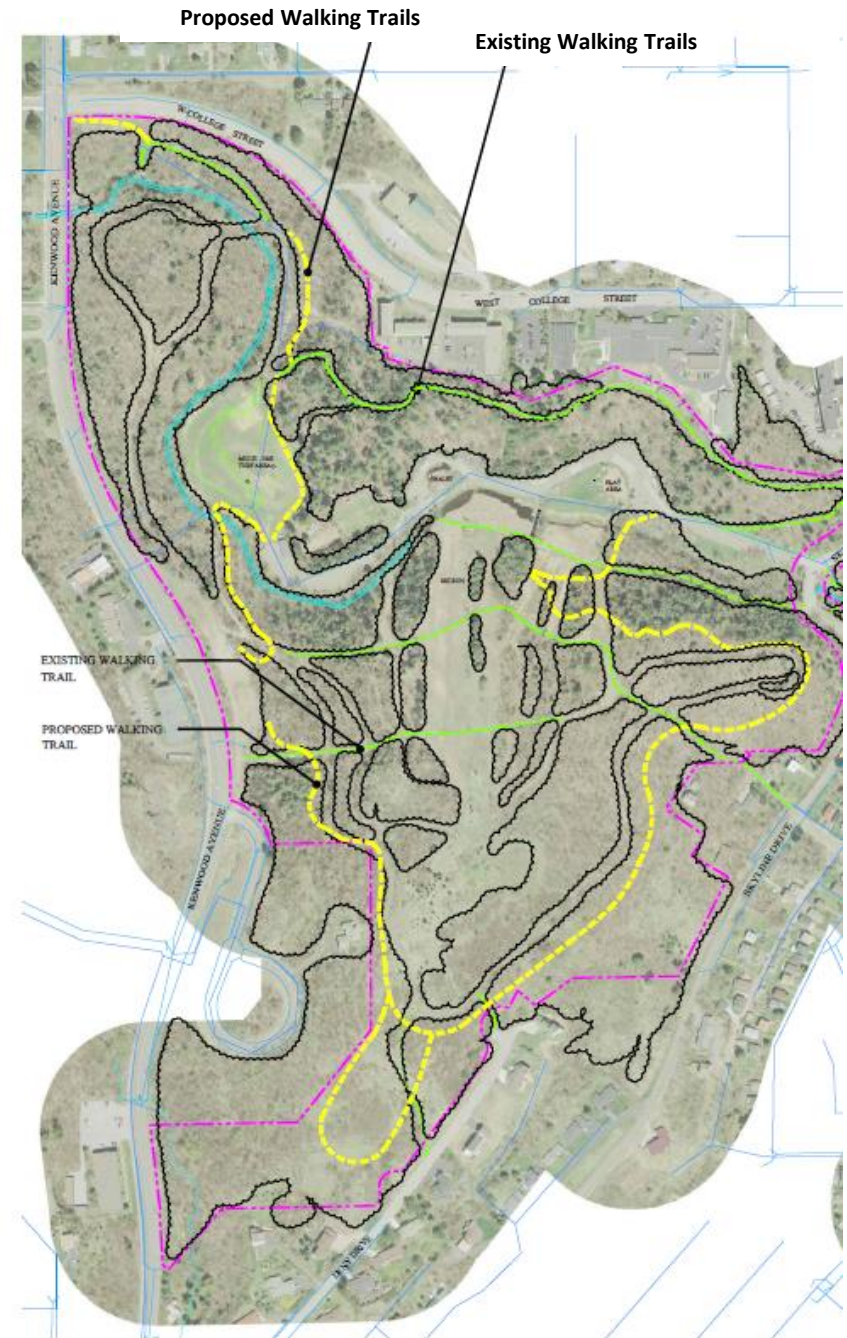
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Existing Walking Trails



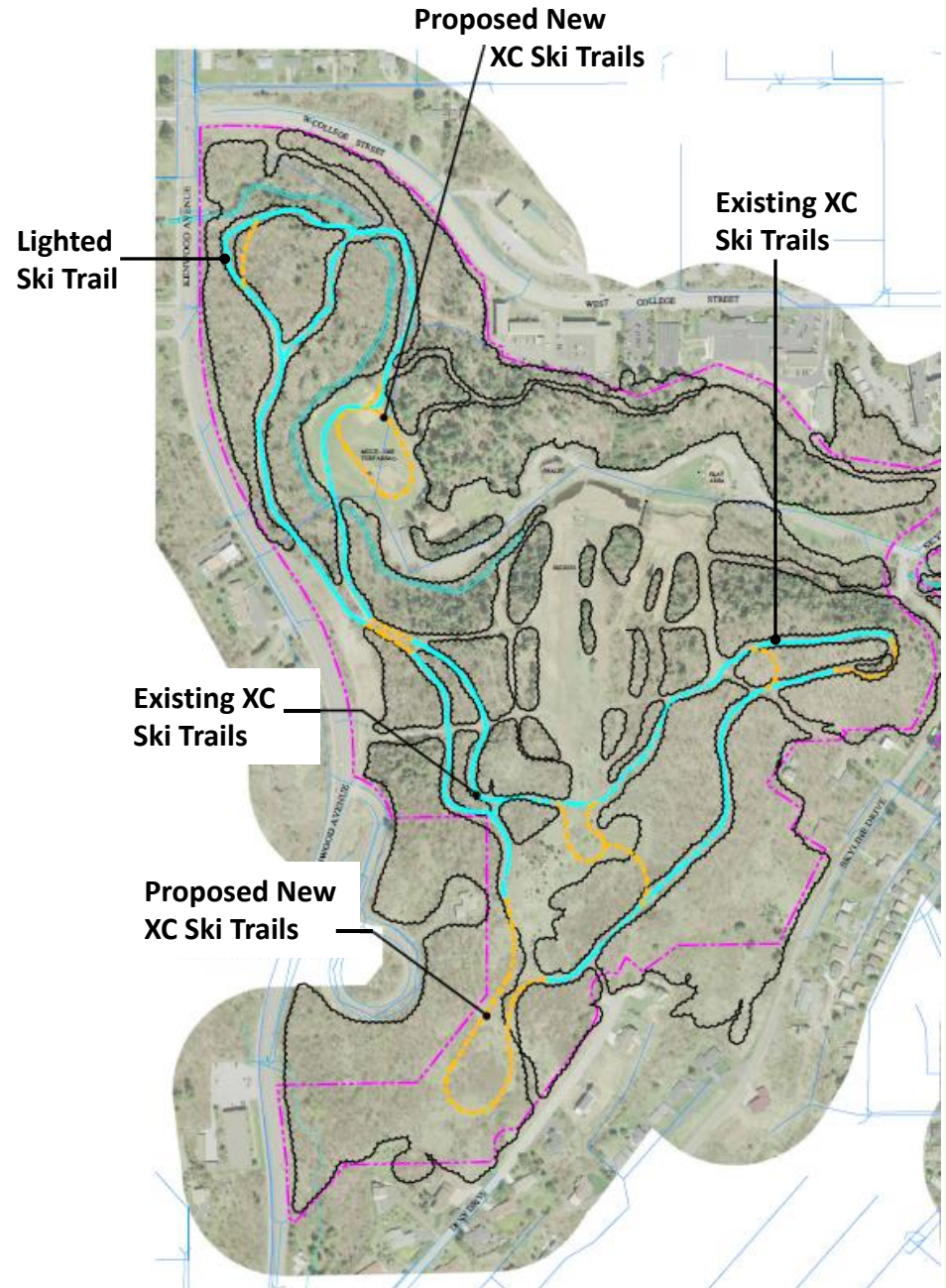
Proposed Walking Trails



TRAIL & CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

- Net gain of .53 miles of new trails
- Reduces user conflict
- Improves safety
- Aligns with current XC Ski Trail Master Plan



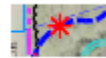
TRAIL & CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS DULUTH TRAVERSE TRAIL

- Net gain of .62 miles of new trails
- Follows perimeter of Park
- Natural surface
- Aligns with the Duluth Traverse Trail System Master Plan to connect the entire length of the City
- This will be the only authorized trail for bikes

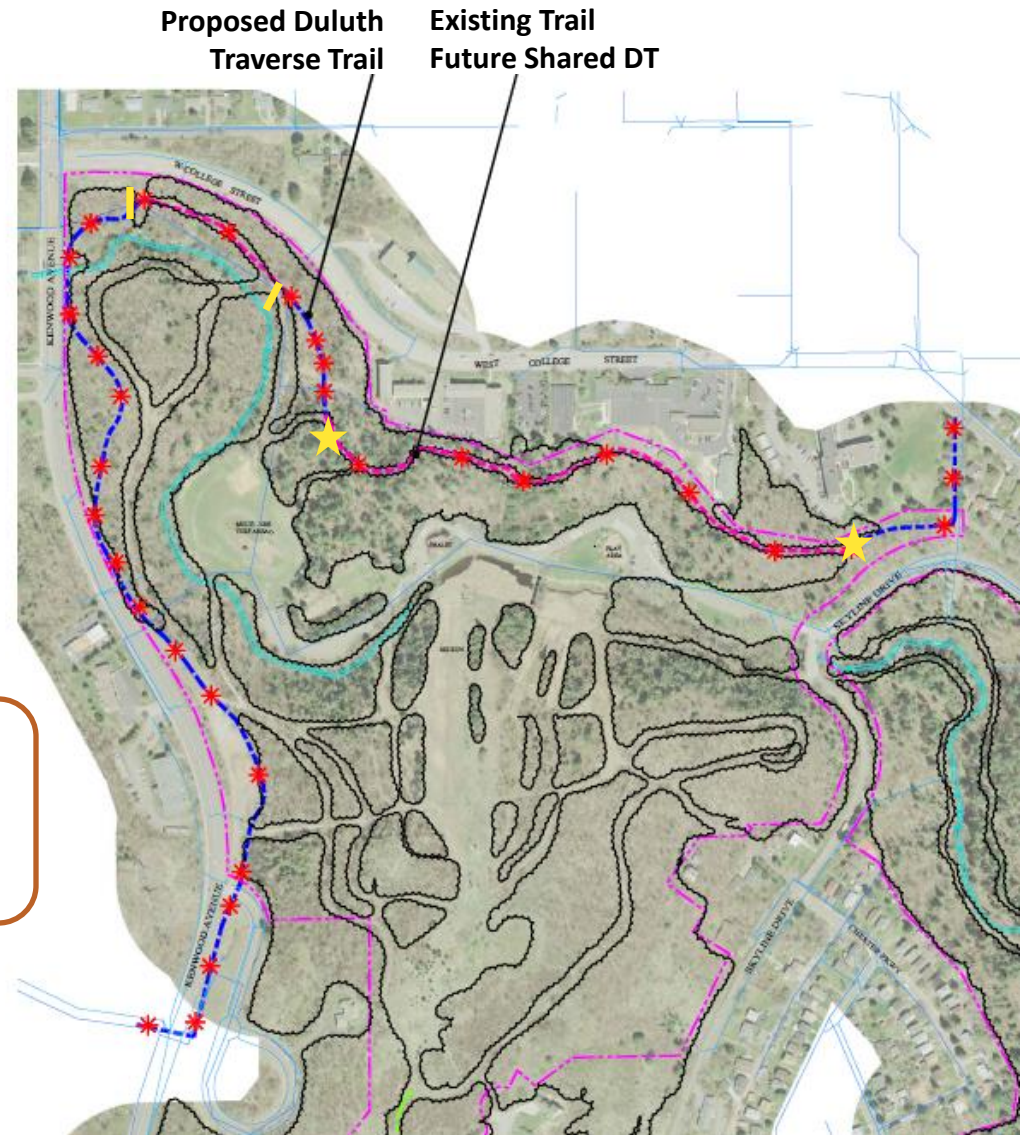
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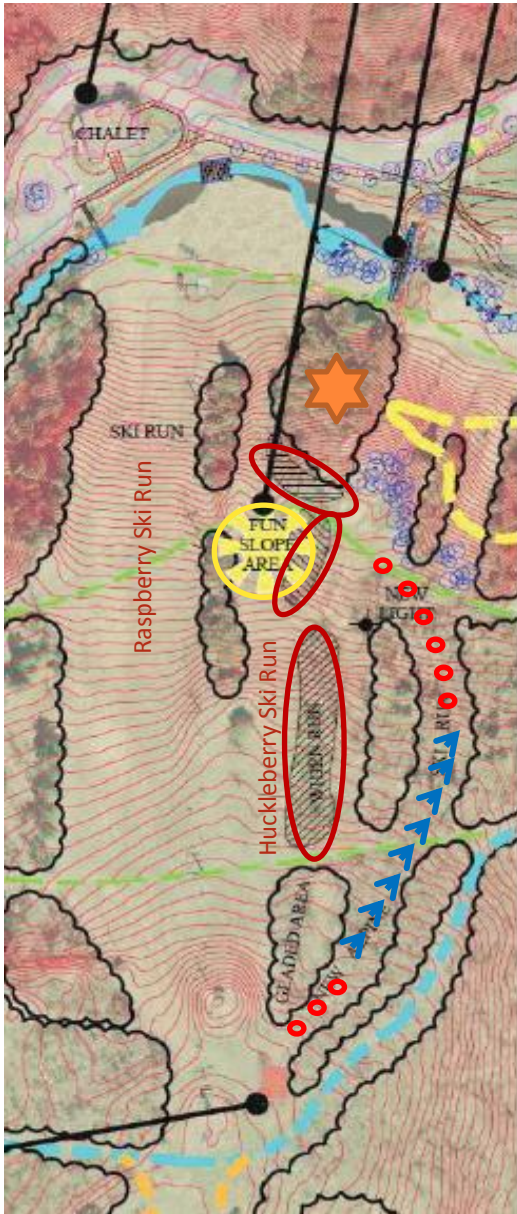
Existing Trail



Proposed



DOWNHILL SKI RUN AREA IMPROVEMENTS



- **Ski Run Enhancements**

- **Widening and Clearing of Huckleberry Run**

- Increased space, sightline and safety for skiers



- **Conversion of Little Chester site to be part of Huckleberry Run** *(to include "Fun Slope")*



- **New Trees**



- **Future "New" Alpine Ski Run**

- Addition of connector segment >>>

- Existing ski run, currently used, sometimes groomed ○ ○ ○ ○

- Assessment of tree impact



Preserved area containing Cedar Trees and Yew

DOWNHILL SKI RUN AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Forest Management Goals and Actions

Goal #1: Clear ski run of vegetation that has grown up over time

➡ **Action:** Remove 9,000 sq. feet (.21 acres) of underbrush, small Aspen & Birch, and invasive buckthorn

Goal #2: Restore high-quality, native trees to sizable areas of the park

➡ **Action:** Plant 46,000 sq. feet (1.06 acres) of Pine (white & red), Maple (sugar & red), as well as Aspen and Birch

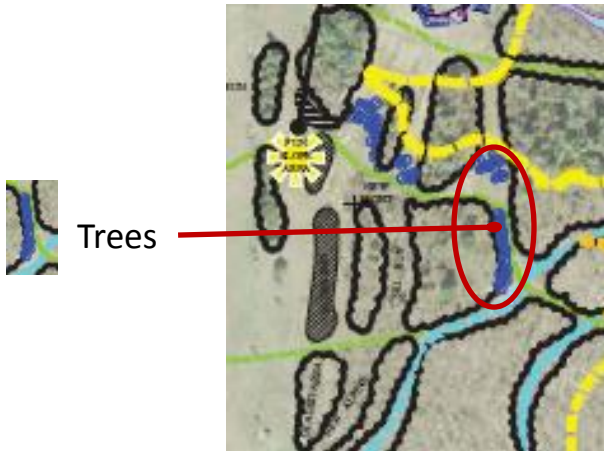
Final Result: No fewer than 3 trees planted for every 1 removed



Trees

CHANGES TO TREE COVER

- Grading of area, erosion control, seed & mulch **(completed)**
- Fill area with trees (various species)



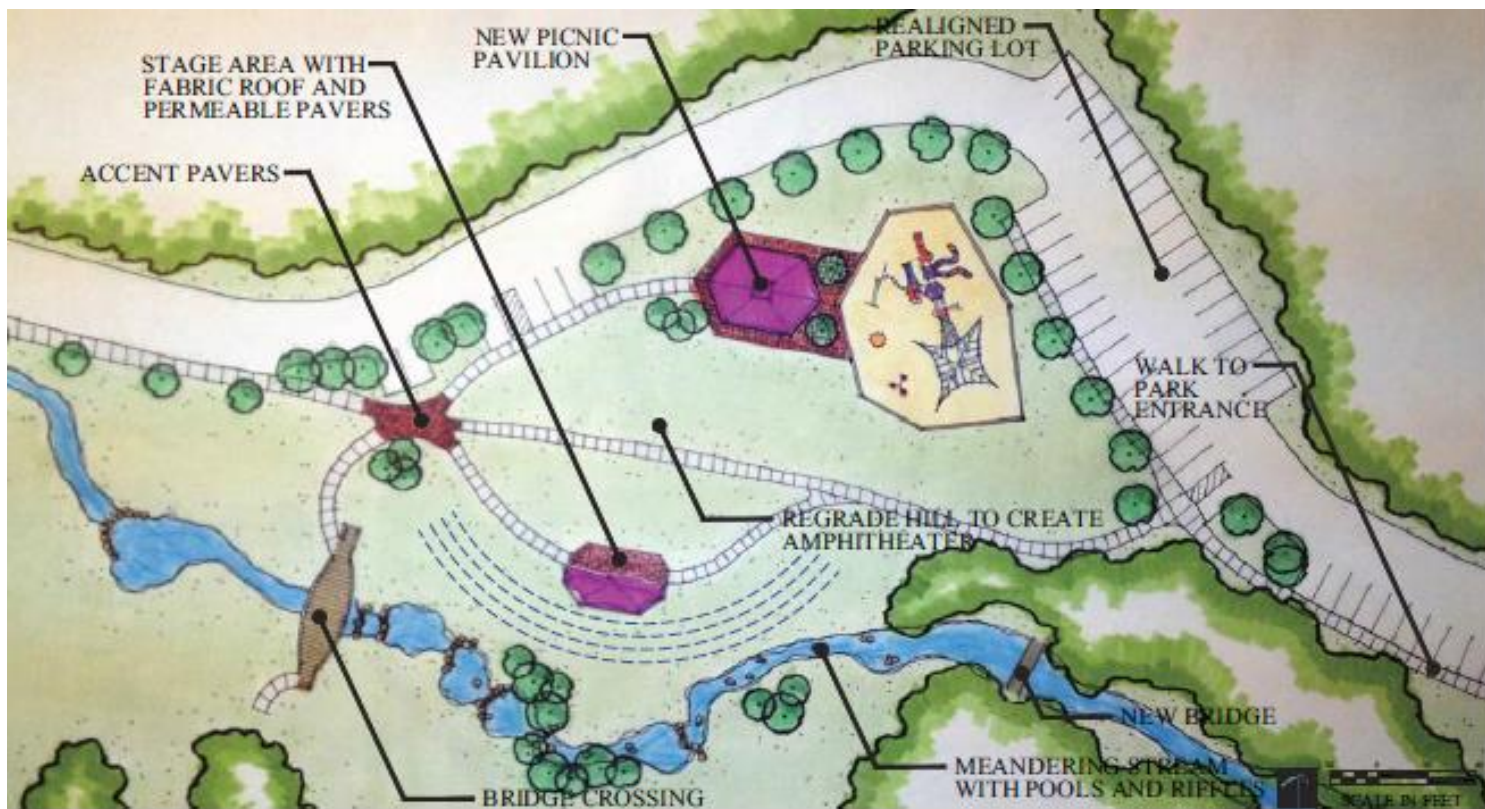
CHALET AREA IMPROVEMENTS

- ADA accessibility
- Relocation of apartment to a new third floor
- Due to location near the creek, building “up” is the only option (requires permit)
- Larger warming area and gathering space
- Private Funding



AMPHITHEATER AREA IMPROVEMENTS

- Improved Event Space (seating, visibility)
- Increased Accessibility
- Work in conjunction with DNR plans for the Chester Creek's pool and riffle system.



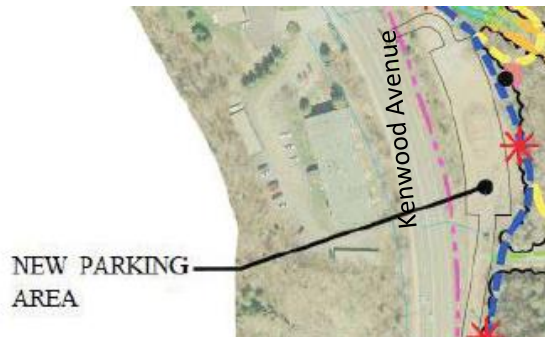
SPORT COURT AREA IMPROVEMENTS

- Sport court area/upper walk-out level of the new Nordic/sport court building ideal for Day Camps (YMCA, CBIC)
- The building will meet the City's goal of achieving LEED® silver status
- Removal of existing storage building (being used for Day Camp)
- Private Funding



PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

Modest changes to current parking configurations within the park could improve parking and vehicular circulation. The feasibility of pervious paving will be researched for this area. Additionally, a new parking area could be added off Kenwood Avenue.



ENTRANCE INTO PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Two suggested improvements to the primary entrance include the addition of a pedestrian sidewalk from the main gate into and through the Park, and the addition of a more visually significant entry monument or gateway.



PHASING

The final Mini-Master Plan is divided into six phases that focus on construction of areas rather than construction of individual elements. This is done for planning purposes and should not exclude the possibility of constructing elements individually based on their desirability. Elements could be built **as funding becomes available** and less expensive elements could be prioritized to increase viability.

PHASE 1 – Could Include *(starting 2014):*

1. Multi-Use Trail Improvements
2. Pedestrian bridge – Upstream from Chalet
3. Cross Country Ski Trail Modifications
4. Trail – Repairs
5. Prepare Fun Slope area
6. Vegetation/New Trees *(moved up from Phase 3)*

PHASE 2 – Could Include:

1. Chalet Improvements
2. Parking Lot/Drop Off Adjustments – Turn around area

PHASE 3 – Could Include:

1. Amphitheater / Picnic Pavilion Enhancements
2. Parking Lot Improvements – Near “Old Upper Dam”
3. Pedestrian bridge

PHASE 4 – Could Include:

1. Park “Entry” Elements
2. Parking Lot Improvements – Along Entry Road
3. East side crossing near “old lower dam”
4. Storage building near Kenwood Ave for snow groomer

PHASE 5 – Could Include:

1. New Nordic /Sport Court Building
2. Sport Court
3. Pedestrian path
4. Parking Lot Improvements – Multi Use Field

PHASE 6 – Could Include:

1. Snow Making and Lighting for Cross Country Area
2. Storage Building at the top of hill for snow making equipment
3. New Ski Run

Process for Improvements

Prior to beginning any work in the Park, specific details should be provided as required by the City of Duluth. The “Project Proposal” phase provides an opportunity for an applicant to identify a project, such as an Eagle Scout project or a new ski run. The City will identify necessary requirements, verify that the project fits into the Mini-Master Plan, and is constructed to meet design and environmental guidelines.

COST ESTIMATES

- Very Preliminary, but good measure of costs required for the range of improvements in Plan
- Costs represent construction by contractors with no donated labor or materials
- Does not reflect use of volunteer labor
- Estimates do not reflect phasing construction or funding from outside sources

ESTIMATED RANGES

○ Phase One	\$180,000-\$200,000
○ Phase Two	\$775,000-\$850,000
○ Phase Three	\$480,000-\$510,000
○ Phase Four	\$550,000-\$600,000
○ Phase Five	\$2,250,000-\$2,750,000
○ Phase Six	\$175,000-\$200,000

NEXT STEPS – ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- Review input from online submissions and public meeting
- Make updates to Plan
- Present to Parks Commission (October 8, 2014)
- Make additional adjustments, if needed
- Present to City Council (October 13, 2014)

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Plan Narrative on City Website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/media/245030/Chester-Park-Master-Plan-Report-09-23-2014-2137-.pdf>

Plan Design on City Website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/media/244784/Chester-Plan-Prelim-Design.pdf>

Comment Form on City Website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks>

Comment Forms also Available Tonight